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From the NIFA Communications Office

NIFA in the News – Week of November 5, 2012

Curious as to what happens to all the news releases you see in the NIFA newsroom? Here's the weekly summary of NIFA's mentions in the news media for the week of November 5, 2012.

In the News

WVU joins search for organic response to stinkbugs (The State Journal 11/5). West Virginia University has joined a multistate effort to develop new ways for organic farmers to deal with stinkbugs. The researchers, led by colleagues at Rutgers University in New Jersey, will partner with eOrganic to aid in the dissemination of research findings, which will be supplemented with annual on-farm demonstrations and social media efforts. The $2,672,327 grant for the stink bug project was part of a total of $19 million awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to research and extension programs to help organic producers and processors grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. Link

West Virginia University: WVU part of $9.98 million biofuels projects (4 Trader 11/5). The northeast could help lead the way to a renewable energy-based economy by utilizing marginal agricultural land and reclaimed and abandoned mined land to grow energy crops such as perennial grasses and fast-growing woody plants. That's the goal of a new research and education project drawing on West Virginia University expertise and supported by a nearly $10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Link

WVU part of $10M biofuels projects (The State Journal 11/6). The northeast could help lead the way to a renewable energy-based economy by using marginal agricultural land and reclaimed and abandoned mined land to grow energy crops such as perennial grasses and fast-growing woody plants. That's the goal of a new research and education project drawing on West Virginia University expertise and supported by a nearly $10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Link

Extension, USDA find rotary harrow reduces runoff (Farm Progress 11/06). Collaboration between University of Missouri Extension and the USDA Agricultural Research Service has shown that using a rotary harrow to incorporate atrazine in the soil balances the amount of runoff and erosion compared to other tillage systems. The harrow decreases the runoff compared to no-till and decreases erosion compared to minimum till use of a field cultivator, said ARS researcher Bob Lerch at Columbia,

Mo. Link

U-M researchers to study 'food security' across Michigan (EurekAlert 11/7). Researchers at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment are leading a five-year, $4 million study of disparities in access to healthy food across the state. The researchers will interview residents and study data in 18 small to mid-sized cities to better understand the factors affecting "food security," a socioeconomic term that defines easy access to safe and healthy food. The grant was awarded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Link

More researchers join effort to control stink bugs organically (Mother Nature Network 11/8). Everywhere you look, farmers are making a stink about stink bugs. Efforts to control the insects haven't been extremely successful. Organic farmers, who don't use pesticides, face a particularly tough time when confronted with stink bugs. That's why a team of researchers around the country has formed to look into ways to organically manage the insects. The effort, led by researchers from Rutgers University, now has a new partner, West Virginia University (WVU), which recently received a $2,672,327 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study the stink bug project. Link

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